

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0906
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
USMISSION USBERLIN

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DEPT PASS DOC

STATE FOR CHESTER EUR/CE, COMMERCE FOR ASST. SEC.
WEIL DIBA

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OCON, EGEN, GW
SUBJ: 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN
GERMANY

1. WE SUGGESTED EARLIER THE POSSIBILITY OF FLEXIBILITY
IN THE TIMING IN EARLY 1978 OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
MEETING AND CEREMONIES IN BERLIN OF THE AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN GERMANY.

2. WHILE WE HAD HOPED TO POSTPONE THE TIMING
DECISION TO ENABLE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IN DETAINING
HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL US REPRESENTATION, WE HAVE NOW BEEN
TOLD BY THE CHAMBER THAT THE DEFINITIVE DATE FOR THE
MEETING MUST NOW BE SET FOR APRIL 14, 1978, WITH THE
UNVEILING OF THE ANNIVERSARY ART WORK ON APRIL 15.

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3. IN VIEW OF OUR CONTINUED INTEREST, WHICH IS OF
PARTICULAR MOMENT, IN EVENTS OF THIS KIND WHICH COULD
DRAMATIZE OUR INTEREST IN THE VIABILITY OF BERLIN,
WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE AT AN EARLY DATE TO ASSURE
THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT A CABINET-LEVEL AMERICAN
REPRESENTATIVE COULD BE PRESENT. IN THIS CONNECTION,

WE ARE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BERLIN OF SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL IN NOVEMBER, AND WE WONDER WHETHER A SIMILAR VISIT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE IN APRIL BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE KREPS OR AMBASSADOR STRAUSS OF STR. IT WOULD BE EXPECTED THAT THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE WOULD MAKE A MAJOR ADDRESS ON APRIL 14 AND UNVEIL THE ART WORK ON APRIL 15. THE CHAMBER HOPES TO HAVE THE FRG MINISTER OF ECONOMICS FRIDERICH FROM THE GERMAN SIDE.

4. THE FRG ITSELF WILL BE ISSUING A SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR THE OCCASION, WHICH IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THE DATE MUST BE SET, IN ADDITION TO THE NEED TO RESERVE HOTEL AND MEETING SPACE.

5. WE ARE CONSIDERING HAVING OUR SEMI-ANNUAL ALL-GERMAN COMMERCIAL OFFICERS' MEETING IN BERLIN AT THAT TIME IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANT NATURE OF THE ANNIVERSARY. IT OCCURS TO US, HOWEVER, THAT IT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE TO HOLD AN ALL-EUROPEAN MEETING EITHER OF SENIOR ECONOMIC OFFICERS OR OF COMMERCIAL OFFICERS, IF SUCH MEETINGS WERE BEING SCHEDULED AT ABOUT THAT TIME. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY US MISSION BERLIN THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE WELCOME.

6. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT APRIL 14 IS STILL A LONG WAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AWAY, THE CHAMBER WOULD LIKE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, EVEN TENTATIVE, ASSURANCE THAT SECRETARY KREPS, AMBASSADOR STRAUSS, OR OTHER CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIAL WOULD BE AVAILABLE, LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF OTHER REPRESENTATION, SHOULD THAT PROVE FEASIBLE. MEEHAN

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